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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
NORTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA
OAKLAND DIVISION

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

Case No. 25-CR-0003-YGR

Plaintiff.

V.

SHENG THAO,
ANDRE JONES,
DAVID TRUNG DUONG, and
ANDY HUNG DUONG

Defendants.

**STIPULATION AND [PROPOSED] ORDER
REGARDING FILTER PROTOCOL FOR
DEFENDANTS' MATERIAL OBTAINED
THROUGH SEARCH WARRANTS**

1 On June 20, 2024, federal agents executed search warrants in this case and seized electronic
2 devices, including computers, phones, and data storage devices, and hard copy material belonging to the
3 defendants. Prior to that date, the government also obtained, through search warrants, data from email
4 and electronic communications providers (“ISPs”) relating to defendants’ accounts. To segregate
5 potentially privileged materials, the government put in place a filter process, which it described to
6 defense counsel in a letter dated February 28, 2025.

7 On March 20, 2025, Defendant David Duong filed a motion to modify the government’s filter
8 protocol. Dkt. No. 50. At the motion hearing on April 24, 2025, the Court granted Defendant’s motion
9 in part, and ordered the parties to meet and confer regarding the specific terms of a filter protocol, to
10 include judicial oversight, to cover each defendant’s materials obtained via search warrant.

11 Accordingly, the parties agree to the following filter process for those materials:

12 The government agrees to identify to defense counsel all devices or accounts, seized pursuant to
13 search warrants, released to the prosecution team pursuant to the government’s filter process as of April
14 24, 2025. The filter team also agrees to provide the relevant defense counsel with all documents the
15 filter team identified as privileged and withheld from the prosecution team from those devices and
16 accounts. Upon defense counsel request, made within one week of both the identification of devices or
17 accounts in this category and return of the materials withheld from the prosecution team for those
18 devices and accounts, the government will provide defense counsel with a copy of the materials that
19 were released to the prosecution team for any of these devices or accounts. Defense counsel shall have
20 two weeks from the government’s completion of production of a particular device or account to raise
21 with specificity in a privilege log any privilege claims it wishes to assert as to particular items that have
22 been released to the prosecution team. If the parties cannot reach agreement via a meet and confer on
23 any item, the filter team and defense counsel shall have one week to submit to Judge Westmore a joint
24 discovery letter, not to exceed three single spaced pages, identifying the contested privilege claims and
25 the legal basis for any privilege.

26 For the group of materials that not released to the prosecution team as of April 24, 2025,¹ the
27

28 ¹ This includes devices and accounts that were returned to the filter team for application of additional search terms provided by defense counsel prior to April 24, 2025.

filter team agrees that it will not release any item to the prosecution team without providing defense counsel an opportunity to review the item for potential privilege claims. To accomplish this requirement, the government filter team² will apply the following general search terms on each of the defendant's electronic devices and accounts that have not been released to the prosecution team:

- Attorney
 - Esq.
 - Esquire
 - Privilege
 - Privileged
 - “Work product”

In addition to the general search terms, specific search terms have been and will continue to be applied to the defendants' devices and accounts. The specific search terms to be run on each defendant's devices and accounts were compiled based on information provided by defense counsel. Those specific search terms will be provided to counsel for each defendant to the extent those search terms have not already been disclosed. Per the filter process set forth in the government's February 28 letter, in the process of running search terms, the filter team may remove the "potentially privileged" tag from clearly non-privileged records and may redact chat conversations that have both privileged and non-privileged content.

After running both the general and the specific search terms on a set of data or a device, the filter team will send all materials that do not hit on any search terms, the clearly non-privileged materials that were untagged, and the redacted conversations (the “non-hits”) to counsel for the defendant who is the owner of the device or account on hard drives that have been provided to the filter team by each defense counsel. Upon receipt of the non-hits for any given device or account, defense counsel shall have two weeks to review the non-hits, and then can raise with specificity any privilege claims it wishes to assert as to particular items. The defense counsel shall raise such privilege assertions with the filter team, and identify the legal and factual basis for an assertion of privilege over each document in a privilege log. During this two-week period of defense counsel review, the filter team shall not release any non-hits to

² The government filter team will consist of an AUSA and personnel from FBI, IRS-CI, and USPIS who will not work on the prosecution or investigation of this case, except for their role in the filter process. The purpose of this process is to prevent any member of the prosecution team from having access or exposure to any privileged material.

1 the prosecution team.

2 At the conclusion of defense counsel's two-week review period, the filter team may release to
3 the prosecution team any material within the non-hits that defense counsel has not raised a privilege
4 objection to. For material within the non-hits that the defense does object to and has specifically
5 identified, the filter team shall have two weeks to determine whether it contests any of the defense's
6 objections. For any contested objections, the filter team and defense counsel shall have an additional
7 two-week period to meet and confer and attempt to resolve any contested objections. If the filter team
8 and defense counsel are unable to resolve the objections within that two-week period, the filter team and
9 defense counsel shall have one week to submit to Judge Westmore a joint discovery letter, not to exceed
10 three single spaced pages, identifying the contested privilege claims and the legal basis for any privilege.
11 No materials that the defense has a privilege objection to shall be released to the prosecution team until
12 the objections have been resolved by agreement of the parties or, absent agreement, by order of Judge
13 Westmore.

14 In addition, after running the search terms, the filter team will send all materials that do hit on
15 any search terms (minus the clearly non-privileged records) (the "hits") to counsel for the defendant who
16 is the owner of the device or account. These hits shall be deemed "potentially privileged." Upon receipt
17 of the "potentially privileged" material for any given device or account, defense counsel shall have two
18 weeks to review the hits and assert with specificity the materials within the hits over which they are
19 asserting privilege, as well as the basis for that privilege. During this two-week period of defense
20 counsel review, the filter team shall not release any hits to the prosecution team. At the conclusion of
21 defense counsel's two-week review period, the filter team may release to the prosecution team any
22 material within the hits that defense counsel has not asserted privilege over. For material within the hits
23 that the defense asserts privilege over, the filter team may contest any of the defense's privilege
24 assertions by raising those objections with defense counsel. For any contested privilege assertions, the
25 filter team and defense counsel shall meet and confer and attempt to resolve any contested privilege
26 assertions. If the filter team and defense counsel are unable to resolve any contested privilege assertions
27 within two weeks after the filter team first raises the objections, the filter team and defense counsel shall
28 have one week to submit to Judge Westmore a joint discovery letter, not to exceed three single spaced

1 pages, identifying the contested privilege assertions and the legal basis for any privilege claim. No
2 materials that the defense asserts are privileged will be sent to the prosecution team until the objections
3 have been resolved by Judge Westmore.

4 The filter team agrees to return to the relevant defense counsel (a) all copies of any hardcopy
5 privileged material that was seized and (b) a copy set of any privileged material located in electronic
6 data obtained from ISPs or any seized device. As to the electronic data obtained from ISPs, the filter
7 team will also seal the original duplicate of the accounts and files received from the ISP and store it in a
8 secured location with restricted access to prevent access by members of the prosecution team so that the
9 members of the prosecution team will not have access to the original duplicate. As to electronic data
10 stored on a seized device, the filter team will ensure that the prosecution team does not have access to
11 the seized device—the prosecution team will only have access to non-privileged material stored on the
12 seized device. The filter team will also store all seized devices in a secured location with restricted
13 access to prevent access by members of the prosecution team. The government further agrees to
14 immediately report any violation of this protocol to defense counsel.

15 The parties agree to be reasonable in their privilege assertions and objections and agree to work
16 in good faith to resolve any disagreements over privilege before involving the Court. Any time
17 deadlines specified herein can be extended up to four weeks by written consent of both the government
18 and the affected defense counsel, and any longer extensions require order of the Court.
19

20 **IT IS SO STIPULATED**

CRAIG H. MISSAKIAN
United States Attorney

22 Dated: May 28, 2025

/s/
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26 _____
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JEFFREY SCHENK
Counsel for Defendant David Duong

/s/
WINSTON CHAN
DOGULAS SPRAGUE
ERIK BABCOCK
Counsel for Defendant Andy Duong

IT IS SO ORDERED.

Dated:

KANDIS A. WESTMORE
United States Magistrate Judge